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Background Information of the Deuel Conferences on Lipids

The Deuel Conference on Lipids was organized by a small group of eminent West Coast scientists interested in lipid research, to provide for the western states a conference on lipids similar to the Gordon Conferences. Shortly after it was organized, one of the founders, Harry Deuel, died and the conference was named in his memory. The conference has been held annually in various West Coast locations.

Generally the conference is devoted to one or two subjects and both basic and clinical material is presented. The two and one-half day conference consists of five sessions beginning usually Wednesday or Thursday morning and running until Friday or Saturday noon, respectively, and is held in late February or early March. Each session is introduced by a speaker chosen for his high stature in the field, and he reviews his own and related work. This is followed by a few small presentations and general discussion led by a chairman. The last session is often devoted to discussion of a disease process. Informality and wide interchange of information and views are encouraged by limiting the size of the group, by the round table format, and by not recording or publishing the discussions.

Until 1968, the conferences were organized by Dr. L. W. Kinsell, and since that time they have continued under a broadly based rotating leadership. The original policies of the conference have been preserved to keep within the traditional budget, to maintain the informal atmosphere, and to provide the depth and breadth of expertise necessary for a high quality conference.

The attendance has been kept less than 100 persons to insure informality. A few established investigators in the field of lipids, mostly from west of the Continental Divide, are regularly invited to attend. Lipid scientists in the west are informed of the coming program and are invited to apply for a place around the table. The Program Chairman selects participants on the basis of relationship of the research interests of applicants to the program. These participants are expected to provide their own travel and living expenses. All attendees are expected to be present for the entire conference.

The funds to defray the expense of speakers and conference costs are sought from industrial firms which have a general interest in the area of lipids. Donors are extended the privilege of sending a participant(s) to the conference. However, because of the limited size and the increasing interest in the conference, it has become necessary recently to adopt the policy of restricting the participants of the supporting firms to two, with a minimum donation of $1000 per attended.

Ralph T. Holman

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Funding Committee
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